

NETWORK USAGE MONITORING DEVICE
AND ASSOCIATED METHOD

ABSTRACT

5 A network usage monitoring module is provided for monitoring network usage at
a network access point, i.e. network traffic aggregation point, typically at a gateway
device or a similar network interface device. As such, the network usage monitoring
module can monitor the usage of a number of network users who are attempting to access
various network services provided via the gateway device. Thus, the usage information
10 collected by the usage monitoring module is considerably more robust than that offered
by conventional monitoring techniques. As such, the information is considerably more
valuable to network service providers, network users, network beneficiaries and the like.
In addition, the usage monitoring method and apparatus offers a number of particular
features to improve the monitoring process as well as the value of the usage information
15 that is collected.

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